

Message Text

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SUBJECT: BULGARIAN SIDE OF JOINT ECONOMIC COUNCIL

USINFO FOR IBS/PE; STATE FOR EUR/EE; USDOC FOR BEWT;

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REF: SOFIA 549

FOLLOWING MAJOR PORTION OF REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR HERZ AT
OFFICIAL INSTALLATION OF BULGARIAN SECTION OF JOINT ECONOMIC COUNCIL.
REMARKS BY BULGARIAN PARTICIPANTS FOLLOW SEPTTEL.

"FORMATION OF COUNCIL AS WELL AS PROMINENCE AND HIGH
CALIBER OF MEMBERS APPOINTED BY BOTH SIDES ARE CLEAR
INDICATION OF MUTUAL DESIRE TO IMPROVE TRADE CONTACTS. IT ALSO
INDICATES THAT THOSE PEOPLE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN TRADE AND ECONOMIC
MATTERS INTEND TO PURSUE ENERGETICALLY AND IN DYNAMIC FASHION
EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND OUR ECONOMIC TIES.

"USG HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN BROAD AND EXTENSIVE EFFORT
TO PLACE OUR RELATIONS WITH BULGARIA, SOVIET UNION, AND OTHER
COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE ON MORE CONSTRUCTIVE AND
MORE NORMAL BASIS. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE
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TO AGREE ON CONDITIONS FOR REACHING TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH

COUNTRIES OF THIS AREA. HOWEVER, I WISH TO ASSURE YOU
US ADMINISTRATION IS WORKING WITH OUR CONGRESS TO MOVE
TOWARD CLOSER TRADE RELATIONSHIP WITH COUNTRIES CONCERNED.

"IN MEANTIME IT IS BOTH IMPORTANT AND POSSIBLE TO MAKE
DETERMINED AND EFFECTIVE EFFORTS TO EXPAND OUR CONTACTS
AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EXISTING OPPORTUNITIES. FACT THAT US-
BULGARIAN TRADE ALMOST TRIPLED LAST YEAR IS EXCELLENT INDICATION
OF IMPROVED RELATIONS AND MUTUAL BENEFITS RECEIVED BY BOTH
SIDES AND IS AUSPICIOUS BASE ON WHICH JOINT-ECONOMIC COUNCIL
CAN CONTINUE TO BUILD. IN WORKING TO IMPROVE TRADE
RELATIONS COUNCIL WILL ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO MOVEMENT TOWARD
MORE NORMAL RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN ALL
AREAS.

"USG IS NOT REPRESENTED ON COUNCIL, BUT AS YOU ARE WELL AWARE,
OUR OFFICIAL POLICY IS TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT FORMATION AND
ACTIVITIES OF SUCH MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ORGANIZATIONS. IN THIS
SPIRIT I OFFER THE SERVICES OF AMERICAN EMBASSY HERE IN
SOFIA TO ASSIST IN ANY WAY WE CAN. WE HAVE CERTAINLY
APPRECIATED ALL HELP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS GIVEN
EMBASSY AND AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN.

"I FEEL, AND MY GOVERNMENT FEELS, WE ARE ONLY NOT INVOLVED
IN QUESTIONS OF ECONOMY AND BUSINESS. AS OUR RELATIONS
DEVELOP AND EXPAND, I AM CONVINCED WE ARE ALSO MAKING
CONTRIBUTION, NOT ONLY TO UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR TWO
COUNTRIES, BUT ALSO TO WORLD PEACE."
HERZ

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